

Articles for instruction of all the Viceadmiral- rallies within the Realme, howe to procede for the preservation of the quiet trade of all Marchauntes and fyllhermen, as well strangers as Englyshe, resortyng to the Seas for exercise of theyr lawfull trades.



The viceadmiralles in every part of this Realme, shall in theyr owne persons, if they possible may, or els by theyr deputies, repaire immediately to all the Portes & Crekes within theyr iurisdiction, and calling vnto them the Maiors, Bailiffes, Jurates, or other gouernours, with the Customers, Comptrollers, and Berchers of every such Port and Creke, shall impart to them the contentes of these Articles folowynge. For speedy execution wherof, the Queenes Maiesties pleasure is, that every one of the sayd officers shall endeavour them selues, as to theyr calling shall appertayne.

First, the sayde viceadmiralles, with the helpe of the sayde officers, shall by an inquest taken, or otherwyle, enquire howe many vesselles do belong distinctly to every Porte and Creke, who be the owners therof, what the burdens and names therof be: and if they be gone to the Seas, then to vnderstande when they departed thence, with what Captaines or Masters, with howe many personnes, with what wares or marchaundizes: how much customed, howe much not, to what partes their iourney was entended, and when their returne was looked for. And this inquisition made, the sayde viceadmiralls shall cause the same to be put in wytyng, and subscribed by the handes of him selfe and these officers abovesayde.

The lyke shalbe done touching all other vesselles remayning in any port, and not sent forth to the Seas: and it shalbe vnderstande that it is not requisite to certifie by force hereof anye vesselles vnder the burden of. xvi. Tonnes, except it shal appeare that any vnder that burden are departed to the seas suspiciously to do some euill, in which case they shall certifie as muche as shall seeme to them conuenient.

Item they shall enquire and certifie howe many Mariners be dwelling within every Port and Creke, howe many of them Masters and Pilotes, howe many others, and howe many married, howe many vnmarrried, howe many owners of Shippes and vesselles, and how many not.

Item it shalbe enquired whether any vessel of any Port, or any person haue gone forth out of any Porte or Creke sithens March last, being not a notorious marchaunt man, or a dayly fysherman, without good suertie geuen for his good behauiour, as by auncient order hath ben vsed: and of these, certificat shalbe made in maner and forme aboue expressed.

Item after this viewe taken in every Port and Creke, the owners of every vessel shalbe enioyned vpon payne of forfaiture of theyr vessel, not to suffer theyr vesselles to go to the seas without good suertie geuen to the viceadmirall, or to the principall officer of the Porte, for to aunswere all maner of thynges that shalbe objected agaynst them: so as the Queenes Maiestie meaneth to charge eyther the viceadmirall or the chiefe ruler of the port towne, to aunswere hereafter for all maner of spoiles to be done by any vessel of such Port: And therefore the sayde viceadmirall and other officers, shall do well to see to the obseruation of this charge, and yet to exact nothyng vppon anye of them for the sayde assurance: but suche as be not to be suspected, to take theyr owne bandes: and of others to take suerties. In this matter, except they see cause, they shall not nede to trouble the honest fyshermen, that do wehely go to the Seas and wehely returne.

Item commaundement shalbe geuen in every Port and Creke, that no maner of Shyppe, other then knownen Marchauntes and fyshermen, shall from that time folowing, be permitted to come into any Porte or Creke to receaue any succour of victuall, or to discharge or set vpon lande any maner of thyng, vntyll eyther the viceadmirall or his deputie, or the principall officer of the towne or place shall haue due knowledge whether the sayde Shyp haue haunted the seas for any other purpose then for Marchaundizes or fishing, or for some speciall seruise done by aucthoritie of her Maiestie: and yf any shalbe found suspected of any euil doyng, the same shalbe arrested and examined, and as the cause shall require, certificate to be made to the Lorde Admirall of Englande.

Item because there be diuers Skottysmen and some Englyshe with them, that haunte the Seas vnder colour of a letter of Marke, to take the subiectes of the king of Portugale, whereby many inconueniences haue lately ensued: order and commaundement shalbe geuen, that if any Shippe or vessel shall come into any Porte or Creke, with any wares or goodes that may be suspected to haue ben taken by colour of such letter of Marke, or if any person pretendinge to haue any such letter of Marke, shall come to any Porte or Creke for victuall or any succour: The Captayne, Master or Pilot of the same shalbe arrested, attached, and examined, and the same being certified to the sayde Lorde Admirall, shall not be permitted to departe before aunswere geuen from her Maiestie, her priue Counsaile, or the sayde Admirall. And yf any person shall repayre to any suche suspected vessel eyther to buye any thyng of them, or to succour them with any thyng, the same shalbe commytted to pryson, and there remayne vntyll the sayd Lorde Admirall shall geue order therein.

Finally the sayde viceadmirall and thother officers shall consult emonges themselves, howe they may not onely execute these articles effectually, but also howe it maye be surely ordred by some other lyke meanes, that neyther such as be Pyrates and Rovers shall haue succour, but be apprehended: and howe also none other may hereafter be permitted to go to the seas for such euil entent and purpose, and their perticuler orders in that behalf shalbe by them certified to the Lorde Admirall. For such is the principal entent of her Maiestie, to prouide that in time of peace both her owne subiectes and other Princes might vse the trade of Marchaundizes in this Realme, or fyshyng vpon the costes without the daunger of depredacion.

God saue the Queene.